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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, June 22, 2004)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, land, and air, at Your command, oceans and rivers flow and flowers blossom. Mountains and hills tremble in Your presence. Be exalted, O God, among the nations.

Bless America. Illuminate its path through the night with Your divine light. Bless these gifted Senators to whom You have delegated the challenging responsibility of governmental service. May they exercise their authority responsibly. Help them to be faithful stewards of Your blessings. Remind them that they possess nothing of value that they have not received, for every good gift comes from You. Protect all who put their trust in You, particularly the members of our military. Help those whom You have set upon the sure foundation of Your loving-kindness.

We pray this in the Name of the One who lives and reigns with You now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. The agreement last night provides for debate on five amendments prior to the votes in relation to those amendments. Those amendments are the Corzine amendment on Reserve retirement, the McConnell amendment and Kennedy amendment on an Iraq report, the Reed amendment on missile defense, and the Byrd amendment on troop cap.

If all debate time on these amendments is used, we will proceed to a series of votes at approximately 11:15 this morning. I had originally hoped and expected we would be voting on final passage of the Defense bill this morning. Unfortunately, we have not been able to reach an agreement providing for the Senate to complete the bill. Therefore, last night I filed a cloture motion in the event we don't complete the bill. Our intention is to complete the bill this afternoon.

If we are unable to complete the Defense bill, that cloture vote would occur tomorrow. This is the fourth week of consideration of the Defense authorization, and it is time for us to finish the bill. I think we are proceeding along those lines.

I remind my colleagues that if a cloture vote occurs and the Senate votes cloture, germane amendments will still be in order in addition to an additional 30 hours of debate. It is vitally important that we consider the Defense appropriations bill this week, which will ensure our troops have the appropriate resources available to them. We need to begin this appropriations process, and I will be seeking an agreement on the Defense appropriations bill this week before the recess.

I add we will have additional judicial nominations today and into the evening, if necessary. We need to have those votes. We still have nine nomi-

nees who are to be considered on the floor and voted upon. These unanimous votes clearly will consume valuable Senate time and it may be necessary to have these votes into the evening to ensure we process these judicial nominations.

Finally, we have an additional 23 ambassadorships and U.N. Representatives which are now available on the calendar. Included on this list is the nomination of one of our former colleagues, Jack Danforth, to be our Ambassador to the U.N. These are vitally important nominations to act on. We need to do that expeditiously. We have had a blanket objection to executive nominations, but I believe these diplomatic nominations should not be held up for unrelated issues.

I have heard there may be debate necessary on the Danforth nomination. I hope we can look at a reasonable amount of time, or we will be here late at night, or we will have to delay the start of the recess in order to vote on these important nominations.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the leader yield for a question?

Mr. FRIST. Yes.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. First, the Senator from Nevada is recognized.

FINISHING DOD AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we on this side want to finish this bill. In fact, last night, as we indicated, we agreed to shorten the time to the five amendments that are pending. We want to move forward. We feel we can finish this bill. One of the suggestions—and I have not had a chance to talk to the managers—but rather than having the votes after this stack, we can have another series of amendments when we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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